

FOREWORDS

Message from the Governor of Pohnpei State

I am pleased to present Pohnpei's Disability Plan. It is a question a leader must ask when it comes to his/her policies and development projects. Am I improving the lives of everyone including the most vulnerable? While we strive to develop the state, we have to be mindful of everyone in our communities and society as a whole so no person is left behind.

In November 2016 FSM national government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). And this year the 11th legislature of the Pohnpei State Government Passed a Law entitled "Disability Act L.B. No. 163-21." This administration fully supports the legislative bodies of our governments on these policies. However, we need to go beyond just a piece of legislation and attach tangible and concrete support such as budget allocation to support the implementation of these policies. And per the mandates of these policies, I have tasked the Director of Health and Social Services to put together this Disability Plan with the inclusion of budget to execute the program.

The disability program is important because we know that at some point in our lives, we will all become another statistic in the disability population by way of our natural life course. When we reach a certain age, we will experience visual impairment, hearing loss, physical mobility impairment and such. It is critical that the state creates an enabling environment in which all persons including PWD can enjoy a lifelong support system catered to their needs. Additionally as countries worldwide are facing this covid-19 situation, we are reminded of the significance in recognizing and acknowledging the vulnerability of disadvantaged groups including PWD in our preparations and responses against this pandemic.

It is therefore my absolute pleasure to announce this first disability plan. The plan is not by all means a perfect plan nor definite. However, it is a "moving process" by which the lives of PWD can continue to improve through the understanding of what is currently there for them and what must be continually achieved to make a difference in their lives for the better.

Reed B. Oliver

Governor of Pohnpei State

Message from Pohnpei State Director of Health & Social Services

I am encouraged to introduce Pohnpei State Government's first Disability Plan which demonstrates our dedication and commitment to become more socially inclusive. This disability plan stemmed from the Pohnpei Disability ACT L.B. 163-21. The main purpose of the plan is to ensure that we know who the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) are, not just statistically, but most importantly to actively help connect them to the services they need through a proposed registry system and a referral pathway.

Persons with Disabilities (PWD) deserve to fully enjoy life without any hindrance to them living a normal life within our society. Any impairment on them is no excuse to live a life that is different and difficult in terms of them accessing health, education, employment, and all other opportunities and services in Pohnpei.

This is the first time that the State is carefully assessing itself with the PWD lens. This pioneering effort is looking at a 360-degree view of the situation for PWD residing in Pohnpei and how much the state responds in ensuring that their needs and support are considered in the provision of services to guarantee their equal treatment to live life to the fullest. The plan is an ongoing process in that it will continue to assess the situation for PWD and continuously seek ways to improve Pohnpei's provisions to care for PWD.

It is an honor to have led this effort for the state with a great team alongside me. I hope that this plan becomes a basis by which PWD lives continue to improve through the enabling services and environment of the state.

Wincener J. David

Director of Health & Social Services

Acknowledgments

The Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services would like to thank those who contributed in developing the Disability Plan. We would like to extend our countless appreciation to the Pohnpei 10th Legislature, Department of Education (Special Education Division/Program), Pohnpei Consumer Organization, Program Coordinators under the Department of Health and Social services and all other sectors that have contributed one way or another to the development of this first ever Pohnpei Disabilities Program Plan. Without your valuable input, this plan would not have materialized for those in our society that continue experiencing lack of available and accessible services for our persons with disability.

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ACRONYM

BHW - Behavioral Health and Wellness

CSHCN - Children with Special Healthcare Needs

EHDI - Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus

IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

PWD - Persons with Disabilities

SAMH - Substance Abuse and Mental Health

SED - Severe Emotional Disturbance

SOC - System of Care

STI - Sexually Transmitted Infection

TB - Tuberculosis

TC&I - Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure

UNCRPD - United Nations Convention of Persons with Disabilities

RSA - Related Services Assistance

NCD - Non Communicable diseases (NCDs), including heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease.

Definition

Intellectual	Relates to the impairments in the ability to learn, apply
1	

Disability	knowledge, solve problems, make decisions and perform certain daily life skills. It manifests as limited adaptive skills compared to others of the same age, and can include difficulties in learning to read, write, and calculate.
Mental Disability	By contrast, it relates to behavioral or psychological impairments. These are those actions and behaviors that an individual does to make and keep friends and relationships, behave within accepted limits, and cope with feelings and emotions. It can mean difficulties in relating to others, distressed moods or confused thoughts, behavioral or psychosocial problems.
Physical Disability	Physical Disability is more easily identifiable, and manifests as significant difficulty in the performance of functions such as: moving or mobility, like walking, climbing stairs, standing; body movements such as reaching, crouching, kneeling; and gripping - using fingers to grip or handle objects
Sensory Disability	A neurological disorder that affects the human brain to process sensory information (such as sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell) normally and properly.
Other Hidden Disabilities	A disability that may not be immediately obvious. Hidden disabilities don't have physical signs and include learning difficulties, mental health as well as mobility, speech, visual or hearing impairments.

Introduction and Background:

Persons with Disabilities (PWD) have long been advocating for their voices to be heard so that society can treat them with respect and dignity. This calls for a government effort to find ways in which it can support this vulnerable group through provision of policies, programs, services and opportunities that are specifically catered to PWD. Furthermore, FSM is a signatory to the UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) by which the FSM Governments including Pohnpei State are obligated to promote and protect the rights of PWD. Pohnpei is responding through the concept of a "Womb to Tomb" care system that will look at the overall lifespan of PWD to ensure that there are no barriers to them living a normal life.

UN defined Persons with Disabilities to include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments by which their

interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers hinder their full participation in society on an equal basis with others. For Pohnpei, there is a sizable population of PWD that the government cannot and must not ignore. According to the FSM 2010 Census, out of the 36,196 population of Pohnpei, there are about 3,004 PWD with 2,837 residing on the main island and 167 living in the outer islands. This is 8% of the total population for the State.

Thus the 10th Pohnpei State Legislature enacted a law; L.B.163.21 commissioning the executive branch to design a disability program plan with measures to ensure that both recommended statutory and administrative means to PWD are incorporated. The law also mandates an appointment of a Disability Ambassador as a key official for Pohnpei State that will be subsequently responsible for timely initiation and timely implementation of a disability program. This is a commission that explicitly tasked the Director of Health & Social Services to be in charge of overseeing that the plan is completed and submitted simultaneously to the Pohnpei State Governor and the Pohnpei State legislature not more than 180 days after the said bill was signed into law.

The plan enjoins all relevant stakeholders of PWD to map out the existing key actors and supports that are currently available within Pohnpei State. The plan acknowledges that there are wide ranges of support for PWD that currently exist but are fragmented. There is no clear coordination of all these supports to responding to PWD through a mechanism that can identify and register the individuals so that the State can effectively manage these registered PWD targeting their specific needs and eventually when possible, exiting them from PWD programs that are no longer applicable. The plan also outlines gaps in the provision of services to this particular group with proposed actions to address the gaps.

Ultimately, the purpose of the plan is to identify PWD, register them and connect them to the available services and outline gaps that the state must address.

How the Pohnpei Disabilities Program was developed:

Through the Director of Health and Social Services guidance and leadership, a team consisting of the Social Services and Public Health staff was established to lead the development of this Disabilities Program for Pohnpei with direct involvement of key stakeholders. The team consists of the following individuals with their titles and programs/affiliations:

1.	Mr. Wincener David	Director of Health and Social Services
2.	Mr. Noriekka Lekka	Chief of Social Services
3.	Mrs. Norleen Oliver Deorio	Chief of Primary Health Care
4.	Mrs. Aieleen Mauricio	Behavior Health & Wellness Coordinator
5.	Mrs. Wefonne Billen	Children with Special Health Care Needs/Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Coordinator
6.	Mrs. Marcy Lorrin	Maternal & Child Health program Coordinator
7.	Mrs. Shellany Saimon	Behavioral Health & Wellness (BHW) Opioid
8.	Mrs. Silverina Pretrick	BHW System of Care (SOC)
9.	Mr. Spencer Donre	Immunization Program Coordinator
10.	Mrs. Bernida Hadley	Tobacco Educator
11.	Mrs. Mercedes Gilmete	Tuberculosis (TB) Coordinator
12.	Mr. Malcolm Albert	Public Health Outreach/Syndromes Surveillance
13.	Mrs. Masaly Andon	HIV/STI Coordinator
14.	Mrs. Monalisa Benjamin	Family Planning
15.	Mrs. Delpihn Abraham	Non Communicable Disease Coordinator
16.	Mrs. Dosina B Neth	Immunization Program's Data analyst
17.	Mr. Edmont Allen	Disability Program Coordinator

18.	Mr. Roddy Robert	Special Education Coordinator
19.	Mr. Henry Phillip	Pohnpei Consumer Organization
20.	Mrs. Monique Poll	Women with Disabilities Organization

A first meeting was held at the Public Health Conference room on August 20, 2021 to brainstorm on the outline of the plan and tasking the Social Services team to come back with a draft. The core team agreed unanimously that invitation is to be extended to the other stakeholders such as the Pohnpei Consumer Organization (PCO), Public Safety, Education, and others that may be valuable contributors to the Plan. The development of the plan is based on this key principle of the CRPD clause which is "nothing for us, without us". A special request is given to the champion of the 10th Pohnpei State Legislature to be a part of the initial work of the plan to assist in clarifying the intent and the expectations of the "Pohnpei Disabilities Program".

A second meeting was held on August 27, 2021 to review a draft provided by the social services team. The core team established by the Director of Health and Social Services reviewed this draft and made the necessary adjustments to finalize this Plan.

Vision - Our Aspiration

Pohnpei is a place where persons with disability and disabling conditions are thriving and reaching their full potential.

Values - Our Principles

Integrity
Inclusion
Empowerment
Diversity
Accountability

Mission - Our Purpose

Enhance the lives of People with disability on Pohnpei State Advocate for the full and equal inclusion of people with disabilities and disabling conditions in all aspects of their lives.

The Legal Framework:

Without prejudice, all PWD on Pohnpei must be registered. A general registry will be established and kept at the Department of Health & Social Services and must be kept confidentially and can only be made available through application that will be reviewed and approved by the Director of Health & Social Services.

All identified and registered individuals must be included in all aspects of our daily lives. All public facilities that are going to be constructed must meet the standard requirement for accessibility to the Disabled population in Pohnpei State.

The Pohnpei State Disabilities Program to run as follows:

- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- Encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

The director of the Department of Health and Social Services shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organization to submit to the Governor of Pohnpei and to the Pohnpei Legislature fully documented and well reasoned plan to implement a specifically tailored state government program for all persons with disabilities, to be known as the "Pohnpei Disabilities Program"

An ambassador appointed by the Governor is placed in charge of making sure that the Disability Plan and Disability Program's contents are fully met and enforced. The office of the ambassador for the Disabled Persons of Pohnpei shall be attached to the Pohnpei state department of health services which shall be responsible for the compensation of the Ambassador and support for the activities of his/her office.

Duties of the appointed Ambassador for the disabled persons of Pohnpei State

- Monitor all aspect of the planning, enactment and administration of the Pohnpei disabilities program and register within his/her office an accounting of all developments with respect thereto;
- Undertake continuous consultations with the disabled communities of Pohnpei to gain their assessment of the planning, enactment and implementation of the Pohnpei disabilities program
- Undertake public information programs in support of the proficient planning and effective administration of the Pohnpei disabilities program

- Issue periodic report cards to be presented to the governor of Pohnpei and to the Pohnpei legislature on the status of the planning, enactment and implementation of the Pohnpei disabilities program
- classify the shortcomings in the planning and/or implementation of the Pohnpei disabilities program so identified in the periodic report cards and recommend practical solutions to the governor of Pohnpei and the Pohnpei legislature to be undertaken by appropriate agencies of the Pohnpei government

Who do we cover?

The Pohnpei State Government is committed to supporting PWD therefore aligning its Disability Plan coverage to the UNCRPD's category of disabilities as follows:

- Physical disabilities;
- Sensory disabilities;
- Intellectual disabilities;
- Mental health disabilities; and,
- Other hidden disabilities.

Available Services

A review of the state's programs shows much support is given to PWD, although fragmented. The Disability Matrix below outlines the services with descriptions of the services. For example in the hospital setting, newborns can be identified if they have special needs. When these babies show up for their follow-up at 2 weeks or so at Primary Health Care (PHC), they are seen by the Maternal Child Health Care program on interventions for any special care needs. All other relevant PHC programs take in these babies through their intervention programs where appropriate like the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program (EHDI), Children with Special Health Needs Program (CSHNP) will run diagnostics to determine whether the child should be referred to DOE special education department. Children under six month old are referred to the Special Education for early intervention services, children 0-2 years old are placed in the Related Service Assistance Program(RSA), and the school aged are to be serviced accordingly under the IDEA act. Services for school-aged children that are diagnosed with disabilities (3 through 21 years of age) are covered under the IDEA act. Social Security (SS) program is another available program for the state that covers PWD but is limited to those employed or ever employed and

contributes to the social security fund through taxes. They can receive medical retirement or disability pay if injured on the job impairing their ability to function in their line of work.

Social Services under the Department of Health & Social Services is an office that advocates for PWD and the designated vocal point for PWD within the Pohnpei State Government. Essentially, it is the office that should coordinate all support provided for PWD by the state and should there be gaps in the system of care for PWD, it should actively connect with relevant authorities to address the gaps.

Disability Services Matrix

Pohnpei State Hospital	Midwife/Pediatrician	New born Babies, screened for abnormalities and registration.
	Physical Therapy Unit	Physical therapy services to patients upon reference by Pohnpei State Hospital Doctors.
Primary health care (PHC) addresses most of an individual's wellbeing needs all through their lifetime. This incorporates physical, mental	MCH (Maternal and Child Health)	This program aims to support pregnant women to experience healthy pregnancies, and to support parents of infants and young children and their families in helping children to develop optimally into adulthood.
and social prosperity and it is individuals focused as opposed to infection focused. PHC is an entire-of-	Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program	The EHDI Program detects and intervenes with special health care needs (hearing) on children. 0-21 yrs of age
society approach that incorporates	Children with Special Health	The CSHCN Program detects and intervenes with special health care needs of children. 0-21 yrs. Of age

wellbeing advancement, infection avoidance,	Needs Program	Diagnostics includes:	
		Sensory	Behavioral
treatment, restoration and palliative		Speech & Language	Specific LD
consideration.		Physical (Ortho)	Multiple Disabilities
		Neurologic	Other Health
	System of Care Program (SOC)	The System of Care Primprove the mental her for children and youth age 21, with severe endisturbance (SED), and by developing a cultur appropriate system of support. The project state of SED's and mental illustration individuals within the group. Appropriate treathen be provided base outcomes of screening	ealth outcomes , birth through motional d their families rally care and creens for ess in target age eatment will ed on the
	Immunization Program	Immunization is the properties a vaccine to a person them against disease. (protection) by immunities would get from disease of getting the disease vaccine. This is what resuch powerful medicine.	to protect Immunity nization is by a person e, but instead you get a makes vaccines
Non-Communicab Diseases (NCD) Program Diabetes and Hypertension	Program Diabetes and	-provides education and on the prevention and NCDs especially Diabed Hypertension -provided screening to any indivage of 25 and up -after screening, individuals the NCD clinics for fur and management -pro	control of etes and es NCD idual at the er NCD are referred to ther follow up

		homebound care to NCD patients that are bed ridden -provides Chronic Disease Self Management workshop to NCD clients and caregivers
	Behavior Health and Wellness Program	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Program(SAMH)
		To implement programs and services that assist all those with a disabling mental illness, emotional problem, or substance abuse problem to acquire the skills, support and resources they need to succeed where they choose to love, learn and work; and to maintain responsibility to the greatest extent possible for setting their own goals, directing their own lives and acting responsibly as members of a family, village or island and state.
Department of Education	 Special Education Early Childhood Education 3-21yrs (RSA) Related Services Assistance 0-2yrs 	The Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004) provides eligible children, starting at age 3, the right to special education services in Pohnpei State public schools. Preschool children ages 3 to 5 are served under Part B of IDEA, which addresses assessment, individualized programs, and placements for 3- to 21-year-olds. RSA provides Physical therapy and transportation services for children 0 - 2 yrs old.
Department of Public Safety	Police and Security	The Department shall be responsible for the safeguarding and protecting the lives and property of the people of Pohnpei,

	 Correction and Rehabilitation Fire and Emergency Services Regulations 	keeping the peace, and assuring compliance with all applicable laws.
Department of TC&I	Public Works	Preparation, review and coordinate of designs, plans specifications
Pohnpei State Social Services	Youth Program	To promote opportunities for youth development Programs/Services: 1. Youth policy and development 2. Youth economic and social agenda 3. Youth violence prevention 4. Youth focal point
	Women's interest Program	Function: Promotion of gender related development issues Programs/Services: 1. Advancement of women's rights and gender equality issues 2. Technical Partner for FSM National Women Council 3. Gender mainstreaming across government sectors 4. Focal point for national, regional and international gender/women issues 5. Monitor convention on CEDAW

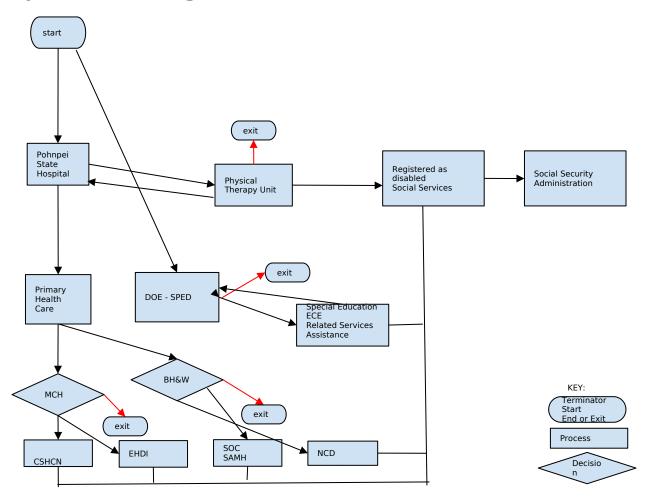
Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)	State PREP programs must target services to youth, 6th grade to 8th grade, who are at high-risk for pregnancies. This group includes pregnant and/or parenting youth who are under age 21, and youth who live in areas with high teen birth rates. Programs must place substantial emphasis on both abstinence and contraception education for the prevention of pregnancy and STIs. State PREP projects must educate young people in at least three of the six congressionally mandated subject areas below:
	 Healthy relationships, including marriage and family interactions Adolescent development, such as the development of healthy attitudes and values about adolescent growth and development, body image, racial and ethnic diversity, and other related subjects
	Financial literacy Parent shild communication
	 Parent-child communication Educational and career success, such as developing skills for employment preparation, job seeking, independent living, financial self-sufficiency, and workplace productivity Healthy life skills, such as goalsetting, decision making,
Senior Citizen	negotiation, communication and interpersonal skills, and stress management Function:

		To promote elderly services
		Programs/Services:
		 Development of senior citizen services Advocacy of disability prevention and rehabilitation services Advocacy of ageing issues Focal point elderly persons Monitor convention on persons with disabilities
	Disabilities Program	Function:
		Monitor all aspect of the planning, enactment and administration of the Pohnpei disabilities program and register within his/her office an accounting of all developments with respect.
		Programs/Services:
		 Development of disability services Advocacy of disability prevention and rehabilitation services Advocacy of disability and ageing issues Focal point all Pohnpeians with disability Monitor convention on persons with disabilities
Social Security	Security benefit	Security benefit for the retired Medical retirement

	3.
Interagency Council	
Council	

The system flow diagram below illustrates the flow of services and the entry points where PWD can seek help.

System Flow Diagram:



Disability Action Plan:

Although there is considerable support for PWD as illustrated in the disabilities matrix above, the state recognizes that there is more to be done to improve its services. For example, there is no mechanism in place now to

ensure that children that exit out of the special education at 21 years old can transition into higher education and employment.

Therefore in the Action Plan Matrix below, some changes/improvements needed are identified that the state must undertake to provide a more comprehensive support for PWD.

Action Plan Matrix

<u>Objective</u>	Actions		<u>Deadline</u>	Who will act/how
Accessible/Disability friendly parkings places.	Reserved/Marked Parking/Nearest to Wheelchair accessible ramps and/or key locations Handicap accessible parking for cars and wheelchair-accessible vans.		60 days prior to the day designated by the United Nations as the International day of Persons with Disabilities, December 03,2021.	TC&I
Accessible/Disability friendly Accomodations for access to the facilities of Government Public Buildings.	<i>ITEM</i> Entrance	BASIC DESIGN REQUIREMENT S Even slip resistant surfaces. 1300 mm or wider.	60 days prior to the day designated by the United Nations as the International Day of	
	Doors and openings	Doors can be easily opened by Disabled people. 900 mm or wider Space to maneuver wheelchair while opening Height of thresholds 15 mm or less	Persons with Disabilities, December 3, 2021.	

	than 15 mm
	than 15 mm
Stairs	
steps	
handı	
	staircase.
	Nosing not
	protruding.
	Tread at least
	300 mm
	Rise 150 mm
	or less
	1300 mm
	minimum.
	If more than
	12 steps, there
	is a landing
	1300 mm long.
	Handrails
	provided at a
	height of 900
	mm for both
	ends.
	Width is1300
	mm (1000 if
	short).
Ramp	
	gradient 1:20
	Length of
	landing 1300
	mm. not
	sloping more
	than 1:50
	Curbs at edges
	75 mm
	Double
	handrails
	provided at
	height of 700
	and 900 mm
	Continuing 300
	mm at both
Talla	ends of ramp
Toile	
	accessible
	path from

		T		
	•	entrance to toilets.		
	Æ	Door opens		
		outwards		
	Accessible	Door opening		
	Toilet	width at least		
		900 mm		
		Floor area at		
		least		
		1700X1700		
		mm		
		Grab rails		
		provide at a		
		height of about 700 mm		
		Disability		
		access sign on		
		door		
Accessible/Disability	E.g. Ensuri	ng desks are	60 days prior	
friendly accommodations	accessible for wheelchair and scooter users. E.g. Ensuring all digital documents and websites		to the day	
for obtaining and use of the			designated	
services of the pohnpei			by the United	
state government agencies			Nations as	
and instrumentalities.		screen reader	the	
		Installing <u>Vision</u>	International	
		Digital Access all copies of	Day of Persons with	
	MSWord in	•	Disabilities,	
	1413 W G T G T III	the office	December 3,	
			2021.	
Inclusive educational	E.g. All vol	unteer and staff	60 days prior	
services, at every level, in	run events are accessible		to the day	
order to promote	by default		designated by the United	
community integration for				
all persons with disabilities			Nations as	
and enable them to realize			the	
their full potential.			International Day of	
			Persons with	
			Disabilities,	
			December 3,	
			2021.	
Inclusive employment	E.g. Provide a statement		60 days prior	
opportunities, in order to	for all job applications		to the day	

promote community integration for all persons with disabilities, including quota considerations, so that they are afforded the opportunity to provide for themselves, as well as their loved ones	(paid) that informs disabled people that this is a disability friendly workplace.	designated by the United Nations as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3, 2021.
Social services programs designed to support all persons with disabilities, in order to promote community integration	E.g. All volunteer and staff run events are accessible by default Joining community sports leagues Taking public transportation Joining youth organizations Participating in recreation center programs Going to plays, concerts, or sporting events Visiting museums or historical societies Volunteering with charitable organizations Joining interest clubs Participating in faith communities Visiting neighborhood parks or nature centers Joining workplace sports teams	60 days prior to the day designated by the United Nations as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3, 2021.

Disability Plan Budget:

The Disability Program Plan can not succeed without the political will of the leaders of Pohnpei State. Their support must be translated into concrete and tangible support beyond a piece of legislation that should include financial support to implement changes necessary to improve the lives of PWD.. Thus, the proposed budget to initiate the program's execution.

- Registry \$12,000 (Computer, registry application, printer, & other peripherals)
- Registry Data person \$12,000
- Training -\$15,000
- Disability Ambassador \$15,000
- Mainstreaming Disability \$50,000
- Disability Day \$10,000

Total: <u>114,000</u>

Ways in which the communities can help:

One thing that the government must recognize is that it can not do things alone. It needs the buy-in and engagement of the community to assist in implementing its programs. This Disability Program Plan is no exception. In order to be effective, the communities in Pohnpei need to take part in its implementation. Below are proposed ways the Pohnpei community can assist.

- Contact us directly and provide feedback to us on all areas of our work. We particularly welcome feedback from persons of disabilities and their parents/caregivers whose voices are easily ignored (including those with sensory and learning disabilities)
- Get involved in our face to face discussions with groups of Persons of Disabilities and parents/ caregivers to ensure your voice is heard